

**Statement on the Retirement of
General George A. Joulwan, USA**

December 23, 1996

Today Gen. George Joulwan, the Commander in Chief, U.S. European Command, and the Supreme Allied Commander, Europe, announced that he plans to retire next spring, after 36 years of active duty service. I want to take this opportunity to commend this extraordinary soldier for his exemplary service to his Nation, particularly his role in building a new post-cold-war security structure in Europe.

His sound military advice on the use of military power to back U.S. diplomacy, his crucial role in shaping new security structures and partnerships, and his superlative leadership in implementing peace in Bosnia will ensure that the NATO Alliance will remain the anchor of American engagement in Europe and the linchpin of transatlantic security. In Bosnia, a breakthrough was achieved when he married appropriate military power to diplomatic leadership. He seized this opportunity for peace which he had created, helped to broker a cease-fire, and then, through his command of the multinational force IFOR, he ensured a stable and secure environment so that the parties had the confidence to carry out their obligations under the Dayton agreement.

As General Joulwan worked to bring peace to Bosnia, he also led the effort to transform NATO so that it could better address such conflicts and remain the guarantor of Europe's democracy and the central force for European stability. He was the architect of the adaptation of NATO to meet the new challenges of a changed world, enhancing its security through the Partnership For Peace program and by modernizing its command structure. His efforts have built a foundation for a Europe that is safe, secure, and democratic well into the 21st century.

General Joulwan's leadership and wise counsel will truly be missed in the senior decisionmaking ranks of our national security structure. Hillary and I join our NATO allies in wishing him the very best.

Christmas Greeting to the Nation

December 23, 1996

The President. Hillary and I wish all of you the peace and joy of the holiday season, a time for us to rejoice in each other's company and in the spirit of the season, a spirit of sharing and giving and making peace.

I want to send a special greeting to all the peacemakers among us, especially to our brave men and women in uniform who are away from home. You're on a mission of peace. I join with all Americans to thank you for your service and to pray for your safe return.

The First Lady. Christmas is an opportunity for all of us to give thanks for the blessings we share as families, friends, and Americans. But most important, it is a time for children, and I hope that during this holiday season we will remember our Nation's neediest children and extend the spirit of giving to them with our love, our prayers, and our generosity.

The President. May the spirit of Christmas and the magic of the wonderful season be with you and your loved ones throughout the holidays and in the new year to come. Merry Christmas, Happy New Year, and God bless you all.

NOTE: The greeting was videotaped at 11 a.m. in the Diplomatic Reception Room at the White House for later broadcast, and it was released by the Office of the Press Secretary on December 23.

**Executive Order 13032—Further
Amendment to Executive Order No.
12964**

December 26, 1996

By the authority vested in me as President by the Constitution and the laws of the United States of America, including the Federal Advisory Committee Act, as amended (5 U.S.C. App.), and to facilitate the work of the Commission on United States-Pacific Trade and Investment Policy, it is hereby ordered that Executive Order 12964 of June 21, 1995, as amended by Executive Order 12987 of January 31, 1996, is further amended in section 2 by deleting in the first sen-